



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2004 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE D-9

(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-9 located in central Kern County. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area contact the San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Office, 1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 (559-243-4005).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2004/mammalregs04.html

The 2004 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-9 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-9, hunters must possess a Zone D-9 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-9 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-9 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone D-9 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. A substantial portion of Zone D-9 is composed of public lands, including the Sequoia National Forest (USFS), and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding

these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Sequoia National Forest, 900 West Grand Ave., Porterville, CA 93257 (559-784-1500)

BLM Offices:

Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308 (661-391-6000)

In Zone D-9 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Sequoia National Forest map. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Most of the public land in Zone D-9 is located in the northern and eastern portions of the zone. Major access to the public land is from State Highways 178, 58 and 14; however the road network within the forest is somewhat limited, but adequate. Hunting activity is highest on the opening and closing weekends.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Early in the season, temperatures are usually mild to hot with cold nights. Light to moderate rain and/or snow and possibly fog may occur at anytime, but most generally during the latter half of the season. Hunters should be prepared for this possibility, with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-9 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of Zone D-9. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are several Forest Service campgrounds within Zone D-9. The developed campsites are shown on the Forest Service maps. Informal camping is allowed on Forest Service lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM, or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply, and it is always best to contact the local USFS, BLM, or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish & Game violation. YOU can pack water, birds and animals can't!

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone D-9 is considered stable, although populations are still considerably below those seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-9 is the California mule deer. The Piute Deer Herd is primarily a non-migratory (resident) deer herd however shifts in elevation may occur during the year in response to weather and vegetation availability.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone D-9 ranging from oak-woodland, mixed chaparral, hardwood, hardwood-conifer, conifer and juniper-pinyon to desert habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Start looking in areas which have been burned in the last five to ten years or where the oak acorns are ripe and abundant. Although meadows provide good forage for deer, especially does and fawns, bucks should utilize areas with better cover during hunting season: rougher terrain (ridges, etc.), denser vegetation, etc. After heavy snow storms, deer will rapidly move toward the winter range or hold in transitional areas. Look in areas with shrubs or preferred browse plants at intermediate elevations.

No one location is guaranteed to have deer on any given date, however the following areas have historically been some of the more popular and productive areas to hunt:

The Breckenridge Mountain area (east of Bakersfield) including: Golf Meadow area; Squirrel Meadow to top of the mountain; O'Brian Springs area; and lower slopes on the Kern River side. Typically, hunter success has been 15-17 bucks on average per season.

The Piute Mountains area (east of Breckenridge Mountain and south of Lake Isabella) including: areas around Brown Meadow; Saddle Springs; Landers Meadow; Mace Meadow; Sorrell Peak and Piute Peak. Typically, hunter success has been 35-37 bucks on average per season.

The Scodie Mountains (southeast of Lake Isabella) located entirely within USFS wilderness area. This area receives very light hunting pressure, however on average fewer than five bucks are taken each season.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2004, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone D-9.

2004 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(8) Zone D-9.

(A) Area: In that portion of Kern County within a line beginning at the intersection of Highways 99 and 178; northeast along Highway 178 along Lake Isabella and through Walker Pass to Highway 14; southwest along Highway 14 to Highway 58; northwest along Highway 58 to Highway 99; north along Highway 99 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone D-9 shall open on the fourth Saturday in September and extend for 30 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 2,000.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(B) Zones D-6 through D-10.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(5)(A) through (9)(A).

2. Season: The archery season in zones D-6 through D-10 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****